(a) whether there has been any recent increase in the airport tax or FTT on international passengers;

(b) if so, the extent of increase indicating the reasons therefor and the amount per passenger that is payable now;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations to withdraw the increase in Airport tax/FTT;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) whether the standards and facilities at Airports are proposed to be increased;

(f) if so, the details of such proposals at each Airport; and

(g) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce this tax and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Foreign Travel Tax has been increased with effect from 26th September, 1997 from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 750/- per passenger embarking on a journey to countries other than the neighbouring countries. The last increase was made in the year 1989 and the present increase has been made to keep pace with the allround increase in the costs associated with the foreign travel.

(c) to (g) The Government have received representations from various individuals and Associations, and they have been examined. There is no proposal under consideration to reduce this tax.

(e) and (f) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Smuggled Goods and Foreign Currency

503. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and amount of smuggled goods and foreign currency seized by Customs officials and other agencies during each of the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of arrests made in each case; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the entry of smuggled goods and foreign currency in the country in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vacant Posts of CMDs

504. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of CMD's and Directors lying vacant in the subsidiary companies under Coal India Limited and Neyveli Lignite Corporation and since when these vacancies are lying vacant;

(b) the reasons for not filling these vacancies;

(c) whether officers joining as DIC's retire after years of service as such without being regular specially in Mahanadi Coal Fields;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) The position regarding vacancies in board level posts in CIL subsidiaries and NLC Limited is indicated below:—

	Name of Post	Date of Vacancy	Reasons thereof
1.	Dir (Fin) NLC	1.3.96	Approval of the competent authority is awaite.
2.	CMD, MCL	1.12.96	
3.	CMD, SECL	1.2.97	
4.	CMD, CCL	31.10.97	Recommendations of the competent authority for empanelment awaited.
5.	Dir (Tech), CMPDIL	27.9.96	
6.	Dir (Tech), NCL	18.12.96	
7.	Dir (Tech), BCCL	1.7.97	
8.	Dir (Tech), CCL	1.8.97	
9.	Dir (Tech), ECL	31.8.97	
10.	Dir (Tech), WCL	31.10.97	
11.	Dir (Fin), MCL	18.9.97	
12.	Dir (Tech.), CMPDIL	19.11.97	
13.	Dir (Per), MCL	18.9.97	Approval of the competent authority awaited.
14.	DIR (P&P), NLC	1.10.97	

(c) and (d) As and when the post of Chairman cum-Managing Director falls vacant in a company including Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, suitable arrangements are made for entrusting additional charge of the post to a Functional Director of the company for its smooth functioning pending appointment of regular CMD. The continuance of DIC depends on whether the regular appointment can be made before his date of superannuation. In the case of *M.C.L., the DIC will continue till 30.11.97 his date of retirement if the regular appointment, for which a proposal has been processed, does not materialise, before this day.*

(e) Concerted efforts are made for timely filling up of board level posts in the Central Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of this Ministry.

Corruption Cases

505. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of the Ministry during 1995–96.

(b) the number of officers involved in such cases, Grade-wise;

(c) the number of complaints received of corruption and dishonesty during 1995–96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Vigilance Department initiate any action *suo moto* against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt; and

(e) whether the Ministry have made any review of the functioning of powers of the vigilance section under their control and, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Textile Workers

506. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether around one thousand workers are working in a textile mill in Dhulia city of Maharashtra on the wages basis for the last 7–8 years;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to regularise their services;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) NTC has got one mill at Dhule, namely, Dhule Textile Mills. In this mill there are 719 permanent and 353 badli workers. There is no worker employed on daily wage basis in the mill.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Neyveli Lignite Corporation

507. SH. VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Neyveli Lignite Corporation has been illegally cutting down green trees causing a loss in crores of rupees and adding to the pollution in environment;

(b) whether the NLC has turned out to be a mafia den in collusion with top officials of the management and mining, plantation and cutting down of green trees is assigned on the contract basis;

(c) whether the Government propose to order a C.B.I. probe in thefts, loot, fraudulent activities and large scale illegal cutting down of green trees in the NLC; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

Supply of Coal

508. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the likely requirement of coal for the generation of electricity during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to meet this requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) The likely demand of coal in the terminal year (2001–02) of the IXth Five Year Plan by power sector; as assessed by the Central Electricity Authority/Ministry of Power is 280.62 million tonnes. The coal availability for the power grade coal from Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. as assessed by the Working Group on Coal and Lignite for the formulation of IXth Plan constituted by the Planning Commission is expected to be 237 million tonnes including washery middlings for CIL and 22.68 million tonnes for SCCL for the year 2001–02.